

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03118 032325Z

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ACTION IO-03

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 3118

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, CA, US

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: CANADIAN ATTITUDES ON KOREA

CORE GROUP

REF: (A) USUN 3072, (B) STATE 190174, (C) TOKYO 11360

(D) LUSAKA 1911 (NOTAL), (E) ALGIERS 1859 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: CANADIANS MIFFED AT CORE GROUP/NEW YORK SEEM-
ING TO ARROGATE TO ITSELF AUTHORITY INSTRUCT MEMBERS' OVER-
SEAS MISSIONS. CANADIANS DISAPPOINTED THAT CORE GROUP HAS
PRODUCED NOTHING NEW IN WAY OF TACTICS, AND THEIR ATTITUDE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03118 032325Z

REFLECTS HINTS OF SENSITIVITY TOWARD IMAGINED PRESSURES

FROM BIG BROTHER TO THEIR SOUTH. END SUMMARY.

2. INITIAL PROBINGS BY EMBASSY IN UN POLITICAL DIVISION OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF LUSAKA AND ALGIERS REFTELS RESULTED IN SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED ASCRIPTION OF CANADIAN CONVENER FOOTDRAGGING TO PERSONALITY FACTORS AND/OR INTERNAL FOUL-UPS IN RESPECTIVE CANADIAN MISSIONS. IN SUBSEQUENT FOLLOW-UP BY DCM AND POLCOUNS, EXTAFF PACIFIC DIVISION (WHICH INCLUDES KOREA) DIRECTOR DEREK BURNEY REVEALED THAT REAL REASON WAS EXTAFF MIFF AT CORE GROUP PRESUMING TO GIVE INSTRUCTIONS WITHOUT FURTHER REFERENCE TO CAPITALS.

3. BURNEY SAID THAT EXTAFF, WHILE STILL CONSIDERING NEW YORK CORE GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS, WAS SURPRISED AND NOT PLEASED TO RECEIVE MESSAGES FROM CANADIAN OVERSEAS POSTS REPORTING COMPLAINTS FROM LOCAL CORE GROUP MEMBERS OVER CANADIAN INACTIVITY. INACTIVITY BY CANADIAN MISSIONS RESULTED SIMPLY FROM FACT EXTAFF HAD NOT YET DECIDED HOW TO REACT. BURNEY OBSERVED WITH A TRACE OF HEAT THAT EXTAFF/OTTAWA, NOT CORE GROUP/NEW YORK IS THE AUTHORITY FOR ISSUING INSTRUCTIONS TO CANADIAN OVERSEAS MISSIONS. EXTAFF HAD, HE SAID, IN DUE COURSE COMPLIED WITH CORE GROUP "MARCHING ORDERS."

4. AS TO EXTAFF REACTION TO JULY 22 SPEECH, BURNEY SAID SPEECH WAS UNOBJECTIONABLE SINCE IT SIMPLY WENT OVER OLD GROUND. HE HAD NO COMPLAINT ABOUT ADEQUACY OF PRIOR CONSULTATION BUT ON CONTRARY FELT SPEECH ACCURATELY REFLECTED CORE GROUP DELIVERATIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, LATTER HAD PRODUCED NOTHING NEW FOR THIS YEAR, IN ABSENCE OF WHICH EXTAFF ESTIMATE IS THAT ROK SIDE MAY WELL LOSE SOME OF LAST YEAR'S SUPPORT.

5. BURNEY EXPRESSED HIS AWARENESS THAT US DOES NOT SHARE THIS PESSIMISM, THAT US VIEW IS THAT SUPPORT LEVEL CAN BE MAINTAINED AND POSSIBLY EVEN RAISED IF CORE GROUP EXERCISE EFFICIENTLY CARRIED OUT. EXTAFF DOUBTS THAT USE OF "OLD MEDICINE" ALONE WILL HAVE DESIRED EFFECT, AND FOR THE REASON HAD PUT FORWARD IN CORE GROUP IN MARCH

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 03118 032325Z

IDEA OF AN OBSERVER FORCE, WHICH HAD BEEN PROMPTLY SQUASHED. GOC NOT SEDDED TO THAT IDEA, AND INDEED HAD NEVER EXPECTED IT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED, BUT HAD LOOKED UPON IT AS "NEW RIBBON TO WRAP AROUND OLD PACKAGE" AND THUS POSSIBLY ATTRACT SUPPORT OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS MANY OF WHOM BASICALLY UNINTERESTED IN ISSUE.

6. BURNEY DISAPPOINTED THAT NEW YORK CORE GROUP, WHICH

CANADA HAD CONVENED SPECIFICALLY FOR PURPOSE OF EXPLORING NEW IDEAS, PRODUCED NONE. RESULT IN EXTAFF VIEW WILL BE SEEN AS DEFEAT FOR ROK. ANY ROK DEFEAT WILL FOSTER IMPRESSION THAT NORTH KOREA HAVING MORE SUCCESS DIPLOMATICALLY THAN ROK AND COULD LEAD TO "TAIWANIZATION" OF ROK WHICH HAS ALREADY LOST STATUS IN A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL FORA. NOTING THAT THERE IS IN CANADA AN ANTI-PARK CONSTITUENCY IF NT A PRO-NORTH KOREA CONSTITUENCY, BURNEY FELT FURTHER INTERNATIONAL BUFFETINGS FOR ROK COULD STIR WHATEVER MODICUM OF SUPPORT NOW EXISTS IN CANADA FOR RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA AMONG THOSE WHO ARGUE FOR "UNIVERSALITY OF RECOGNITION" DOCTRINE (BURNEY NOTED ONLY COUNTRIES IN WORLD NOT NOW RECOGNIZED BY CANADA ARE NORTH KOREA, TAIWAN AND RHODESIA).

7. COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT GOC IN FACT CONCERNED OVER POSSIBILITY THAT AN ADVERSE RESULT IN UNGA WOULD ERODE ROK'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION VIS-A-VIS NORTH KOREA, WE DETECT A MEASURE OF CANADIAN NATIONALIST SENSITIVITY IN BURNEY'S PRESENTATION. UNSTATED BUT IMPLIED WAS HINT THAT US LARGELY BEHIND "SQUASHING" OF CANADIAN OVSERVER FORCE PROPOSAL (WHICH MAY WELL HAVE BEEN BURNEY'S BRAIN CHILD), THAT CORE GROUP'S ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE ITS "MARCHING ORDERS" WAS US-INSPIRED, THAT US ESTIMATE OF FAVORABLE OUTCOME IF CORE GROUP DOES ITS JOB EFFICIENTLY REFLECTS MISGUIDED US FAITH IN EXERCISE OF MUSCLE. THESE ARE CANADIAN SENSITIVITIES WE ARE LIKELY TO HAVE TO LIVE WITH AS THE EXERCISE PROCEEDS AND WE CAN EXPECT A SMUG "I TOLD YOU SO" IF POSITIVE RESULT NOT ACHIEVED.
ENDERS

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